

**From:** zapala  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 2:18am  
**Subject:** Why MS Needs To Be Punished

I am a computer programmer and used to be a PC support technician. I support harsh penalties against Microsoft (MS) because of direct experience I've had using their and competitors software. During my work at the Franchise Tax Board/State of California I installed Novell networking client software on Windows NT 4.0 workstations. When you wanted to install TCP/IP and IPX/SPX networking software on the work station, the Microsoft operating system required you to install their version first before you could install Novell's. It seems to me that something was left off the operating system that sabotaged competing software if it was installed directly.

Recently, another technician friend installed MS-Office on his new Macintosh. The next thing you know, his Netscape browser was giving error messages and his Works software went dead. This friend is a longtime Mac user and support person and something adversely happened when MS-Office was installed. The fact of the matter is that this type of sabotage of competing software is not surprising when it involves MS software. My friend has now banned MS from his machine.

While working at the Franchise Tax Board, I observed management rigging software evaluations in favor of MS. I since have come to learn that this type of favoritism of certain vendors is common among state agencies and certainly does not apply only to MS.

I have read how MS is now "lobbying" properly in Washington DC and it looks like they will get the justice they have paid for. Having been raised by a law enforcement officer, it is a shame to see law enforcement personnel having to walk away from a crime. It seems that justice is being denied by the people who are supposed to enforce it.

Good luck to you in your fight against crime. It appears that white collar crime is at an all time high so hopefully that means an opportunity to you and your agency.

Here's Hoping.

Ron Deluce